

## MEMORIAL

OF THE

*Citizens of Wilmington, North Carolina, for a further appropriation  
for improving the navigation of Cape Fear river.*

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MAY 12, 1836.

Referred to Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

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*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United  
States :*

The memorial of the citizens of Wilmington, N. C.,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

That they have witnessed with much satisfaction the benefits arising from the efforts of the General Government to remove the shoals and improve the navigation of the Cape Fear river, below the town of Wilmington. From the commencement of this work by the Government of the United States, to the present period, there has been a progressive improvement in the navigation of the river ; its waters, from narrow and confined limits, have been turned into a wider and more extended channel ; two shoals of much magnitude, to wit, those known as the upper flats and middle-shoals, have been so far removed as to admit, at ordinary high tides, the passing of vessels drawing twelve feet water, and but for the remaining obstruction at the lower shoal, vessels of that draught might at all times proceed from town to sea.

The works contemplated by Major Bache and his associates, topographical engineers, at and contiguous to that point, remain unfinished, and your memorialists regret to learn that the acting engineer has been compelled to discontinue his labors and discharge the hands employed, in consequence of the funds, heretofore appropriated by Government, being all expended ; and this regret is heightened from well-grounded fears that, if left in an unfinished state, the benefit of the improvements already made will not be permanent ; whereas, by a further appropriation of money for the completion of the work contemplated, scarcely a doubt remains in the minds of your memorialists of ultimate success.

Your memorialists further take leave to suggest that, apart from the benefits which would result to this community, and the State of North Carolina, from the completion of the projected improvements on the river, it is, in a national point of view, of great importance, as a railroad is now about to be constructed from the termination of the Petersburg

and Portsmouth railroads, on the Roanoke river, to this place, which, in connexion with a line of steam packets, to run hence to Charleston, South Carolina, will fill up almost the last space which remains in the line of inland communication, between the remotest maritime points of the Union. They therefore pray your honorable body for such further appropriation as will complete the important improvement now in progress, and which, if left in its present condition, will go to ruin in a very short time.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., May 6, 1836.

The above memorial was unanimously adopted by the citizens, in town meeting, ordered to be signed by the chairman and secretary, and a copy forwarded to each of our Senators, and the Representative from this district, in Congress.

A. LAZARUS, *Chairman.*

JAS. OWEN, *Secretary.*